

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 EUR-12 SAM-01 EB-07 DHA-02 ORM-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /089 W

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R 221309Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4230

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 68

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORT, MZ

SUBJECT: SECRET VISIT OF ADMIRAL CRESPO TO MOZAMBIQUE

1. THERE IS A RUMOR CIRCULATING IN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY TO EFFECT THAT ADMIRAL VITOR GRESPO, PORTUGUESE MINISTER FOR INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION ARRIVED HERE SECRETLY JAN 21 TO ATTEMPT TO RE-CONSTRUCT DETERIORATING GOP-GPRM RELATIONS. BECAUSE OF PRESENT STATE OF PORTUGUESE-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS, RUMOR COULD HAVE SOME CREDENCE.

2. IN PAST TWO MONTHS SEVERAL ISSUES HAVE EXACERBATED GOP-GPRM RELATIONS. MOST RECENT CENTERED AROUND TAP REFUSAL TO ACCEPT CURTAILED LANDING RIGHTS IN MOZAMBIQUE WHICH LED TO SUSPENSION OF DIRECT AIR SERVICE BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND PORTUGAL. HOWEVER, MOST AGGRAVATING ISSUE CONCERNS THE ARREST AND DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL OF A GROWING NUMBER OF PORTUGUESE CITIZENS. WE ESTIMATE THAT IN EXCESS OF 800 PORTUGUESE ARE
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BEING HELD FOR CRIMES RANGING FROM ALLEGED ECONOMIC SABATOGUE

TO BEING FORMER PIDE/DGS AGENTS. THEY ARE BEING HELD BOTH IN PRISONS AND RURAL IDETLOGICAL RE-EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION CAMPS. MOST OF THOSE ARRESTED HAVE BEEN DENIED CONSULAR ACCESS. IN ADDITON, THERE ARE INDICATIONS GPRM HAS ALSO SHOWN MEASURE OF DISREGARD FOR SANCTITY OF GOP EMBASSY. LAST WEEK IT WAS ALLEGED THAT FRELIMO SOLDIERS FORCEFULLY ENTERED PORTUGUESE CONSULATE AND BODILY REMOVED TWO PORTUGUESE CITIZENS WHO WERE SEEKING PERMITS TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL.

3. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT DETA OWES TAP BETWEEN 800 MILLION-3 BILLION ESCUDOS (32 MILLION--\$120 MILLION) FOR WHICH TAP IS PRESSING FOR REPAYMENT. DEBT REPRESENTS ESTIMATED TWO YEARS WORTH OF TICKETS SOLD BY DETA FOR TAP FLIGHTS FOR WHICH TAP HASNOT BEEN REIMBURSED.

4. IN NOV 75 GPRM PNGED 3 PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS RESIDENT IN MOZAMBIQUE, GIVING THEM 72 HOURS TO LEAVE COUNTRY (LM 1188, 11/7/75).

5. IF GOP ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH FRELIMO, ADMIRAL CRESPO IDEAL CANDIDATE TO CARRY IT OUT. CRESPO STILLHELD IN HIGH REGARD HERE FROM HIS DAYS AS HIGH COMMISSIONER DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

6 WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO EMBASSY LISBON MIGHT HAVE OR DEVELOP ABOUT ALLEGED CRESPO VISIT OR GOP PLANS TO ATTEMPT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH GPRM.
CARSON

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